

GULF OF MEXICO SEA GRANT PROGRAMS COASTAL COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PROJECTS

Development of an innovative load-transfer mechanism to reduce hurricane-induced failures in existing residential constructions

Using state-of-the-art technology, high-strength fiber composites and a unique full-scale testing facility, Arindam Gan Chowdhury of Florida International University will work to remedy hurricane-induced losses brought about from insufficiently built residential structures. The proposed research aims at the use of high-performance fiber composites in construction to form a barrier to winds of up to 140 mph. The proposed system would work by transferring wind forces from the building envelope to the frame and then to the foundation. \$300,000 (regional project).

Modeling business return in New Orleans after Katrina: Its implications for Gulf of Mexico recovery

Nina Lam of Louisiana State University will develop models for post-Hurricane Katrina business return in New Orleans. By developing models and using first-hand survey data set collected after the storm, her findings could be useful in planning and policy development for economic recovery in the Gulf of Mexico. The models also will be beneficial to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Louisiana Recovery Authority and local planning agencies. \$300,886 (regional project).

For more information about these projects please contact Melissa Schneider, Communications Coordinator for the Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium at (228) 818-8838 or via email at melissa.schneider@usm.edu.